



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 7, 1994

The Honorable Lane Evans
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

Dear Congressman Evans:

I am responding to your letter of August 11, 1994, which requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to keep your office updated on all activities the NRC is taking to improve the operation of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station located in Cordova, Illinois. Your letter referred to our February 1994 systematic assessment of licensee performance report (SALP-11) regarding the Quad Cities facility. In particular, you expressed concern with the downward trend in overall performance at the facility, and you urged the NRC to carefully inspect the activities of the plant to assure the safety of area citizens and workers at the Quad Cities Station.

Since the results of the SALP 11 Report were presented to Commonwealth Edison on February 15, 1994, there has been continued NRC inspection efforts to assure the safe operation of Quad Cities. Thirteen separate reports have documented the results of our 1994 inspections and have included routine resident inspections, special safety inspections, security inspections, engineering and technical support inspections, and radiation protection inspections. The results of these inspections indicate that Quad Cities continues to be operated safely. Although improvements have been noted in the material condition of the plant and hardware problems are being corrected, there still exist a number of equipment problems. Copies of the Quad Cities inspection reports are available to the public at the NRC's local public document room at the Dixon Public Library, 221 Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois.

We agree with you that the NRC should not "back away and watch" from a distance as Commonwealth Edison corrects the problems at the plant. There are three NRC resident inspectors assigned to Quad Cities on a full-time basis. These onsite inspectors provide the NRC with first hand insight into the day-to-day operations of Quad Cities. In addition to the NRC assigned inspectors, a State of Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety onsite inspector has been certified to participate in our resident inspection program. These four, full-time, onsite inspectors will conduct the majority of our routine inspection effort. The NRC also has region-based inspectors who conduct both planned and special safety inspections at any plant in Region III. Additional inspections planned for the balance of 1994 at Quad Cities include the areas of operations, radiological controls, and engineering and technical support.

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The Honorable Lane Evans

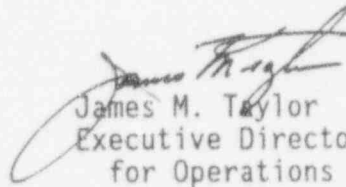
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The NRC evaluates Quad Cities' performance on a continuing basis. Our resident inspectors assess equipment and personnel performance daily through direct field observations. Routine visits to the site and review of identified problems are conducted by Region III senior managers. Applicable plant information for operating reactors, including Quad Cities, is reviewed on a semi-annual basis by senior NRC management to determine whether the overall level of NRC attention is appropriate.

The NRC Office of Congressional Affairs will contact your staff to facilitate any future information needs including meetings relative to operational performance at the Quad Cities plant.

I trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations